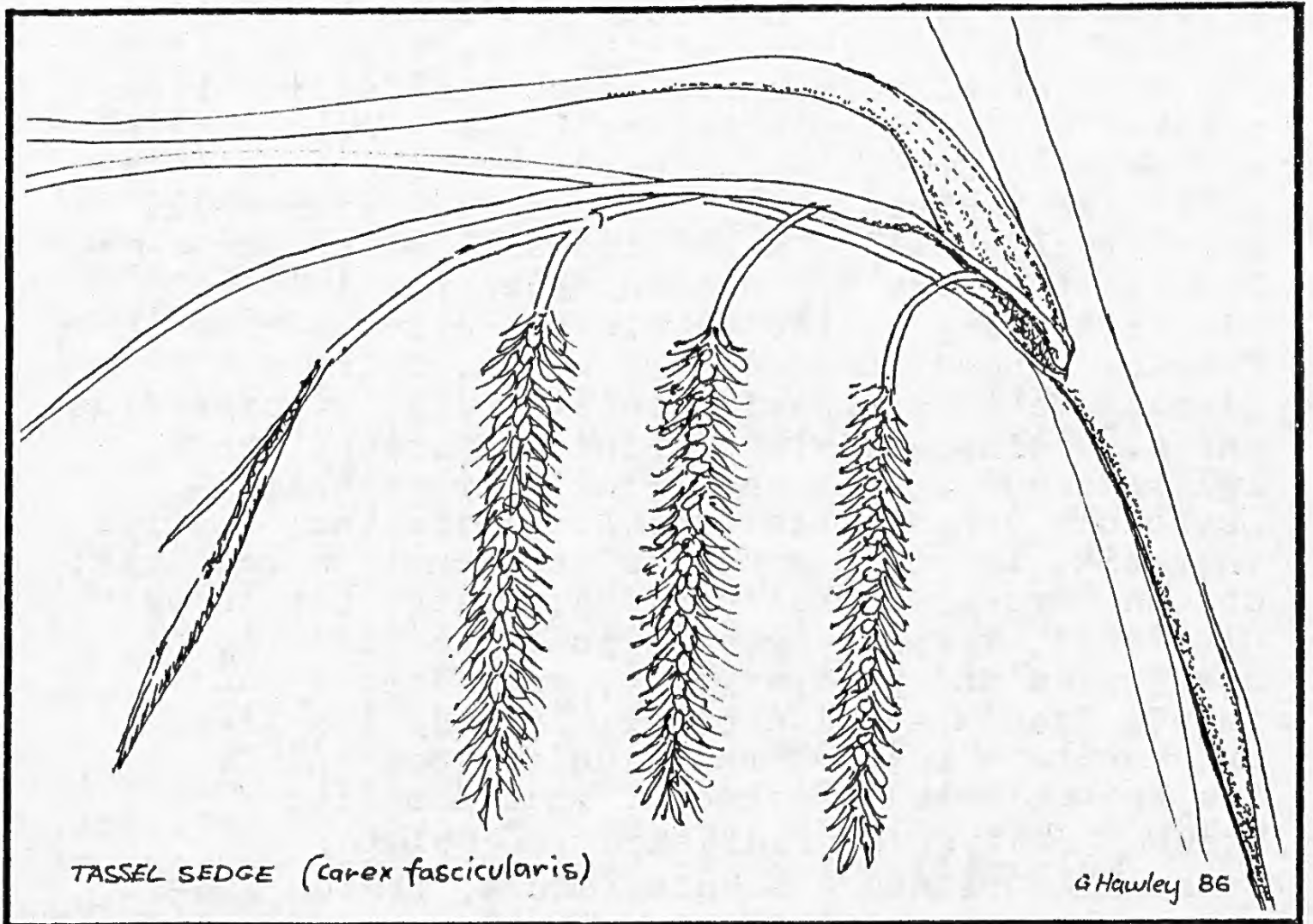


# Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat

MAY 1986

## EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

- Meeting May 2 : "Rushes and Sedges" - Mr E. Errey
- Meeting June 6 : Stella Bedgood Memorial Lecture -  
"Are You a Conservationist? If Not,  
Why Not?" - Mr T. Prescott  
Venue - Old Courthouse S.M.B.8pm
- Excursion May 4 : Mt William (Aboriginal quarries)  
Lancefield. Mr L. Fink



TASSEL SEDGE (*Carex fascicularis*)

G Hawley 86

President: Miss H Burgess 312210  
Secretary: Mr B Dowling 432425  
Treasurer: Mrs F Williamson 327631  
Editors: Mr G Binns 323670  
Mr L Fink 052 861319

Meetings, as specified, are held in the Art  
Building of the School of Mines and Industries,  
Lydiard Street South, Ballarat, commencing 7.30pm.  
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM  
CROCKERS, Cnr. STURT and ARMSTRONG STREETS,  
BALLARAT, AT 9.30 am FOR FULL DAY OUTINGS,  
OR AT 1.30 pm FOR HALF DAY.

## HALLEY'S COMET WEEK-END

After the build up to see Halley's Comet at its best on 11th April it was a bit of a fizz to see that the comet was end on, looking through the tail instead of at it. There was a nebulae about the same distance from the Southern Cross and one could be forgiven for thinking that that was the comet. We were blessed with a beautiful clear sky and the weather was ideal for the camp-out for the whole week-end. Despite the disappointment of not seeing the comet's tail in all its glory the combined camp-out with members of the Society For Growing Australian Plants, Central Highlands Group and our Club it was a most successful week-end. Thirty three members and friends attended on Saturday and Sunday.

We were in charge of the excursion on Saturday - we chose to meander along the Sundial Peak track, looking at plants, reptiles - gecko, skink and bearded dragon - few birds - where were they all? the *Banksia marginata* was flowering well. This track would be a kaleidoscope of colour in Spring. Despite the very dry season which has left many plants looking wilted we did see a few plants in flower. These included Spreading, Spike and Wirilda Wattles, *Acacia genistifolia*, *A. oxycedrus* and *A. retinodes*; Flame, Pine and Common Heath, Twisted Beard-heath and Prickly Broom-heath - *Astroloma cognostephioides*, *A. pinifolium*, *Epacris impressa*, *Leucopogon gracilis* and *Monotoca scoparia*; Common Correa, *Correa reflexa*; White, Curled and Clustered Everlasting - *Helychrysum baxteri*, *scorpiodes* and *semipapposum*, all flowers had faded; *Ixodia achillaeoides*; Prickly Tea-tree and Manuka - *Leptospermum juniperinum* and *L. scoparium*; *Lobelia gibbosa*, Tall Lobelia; Shrubby Platysace, *Platysace lanceolata*; Grass-like plants - *Gahnia radula*, Thatch Saw-sedge, *Lomandra filiformis*, Wattle mat-rush and *Themeda australis*, Kangaroo Grass. Only one orchid was seen, Parson's bands, *Eriochilus cucullatus*. At the end of the track we were

rewarded with magnificent views over Lake Bellfield, Lake Ryans which was full and Lake Lonsdale which was dry.

Our late lunch was appreciated at the Sundial Turntable picnic area. It was here that good samaritan, Ken, stopped to help a chap with car problems and consequently missed the walk from Reed's Lookout to the Balconies. When I first visited the Grampians in the late 50's the balconies also had the descriptive name of the Jaws of leath. From here we overlooked the Victoria Valley and felt insignificant beside the vast valley surrounded by jagged peaks. The walk was through a glade of Eucalypts and Tea-trees, not much variety of plants on this windswept ridge.

A campfire was enjoyed by night, but where were the harmonicas?

S.G.A.P. members led the Sunday excursion. Some of us walked a little way along the Boronia Peak track. Hardly a flower to be seen, but as I have mentioned it was very dry. Margaret chose to stay by the creek and was confronted, through the binoculars by a Black Panther alias Feral Cat. Margaret alerted us to the behaviour of two White-throated Tree-creepers. That completely ignored us as they chased one another from tree to tree.

We enjoyed lunch at the Boroka Lookout with a different view of the valley between the Serra and Mount William Ranges.

The final walk for the day was a Nature Trail through Dulace's Glen, a glen of ferns. This trail was through a variety of habitats, but we had no literature to indicate the significance of the numbered posts. (The National Parks Office does not open at week-ends).

Two items of note at the camp site - the flowering Wire-leaf Mistletoe, *Ameyma preissii*, a mistletoe found on Acacias; and the sighting of Rainbow Lorikeets feeding on the flowering Eucalyptus.

My thanks to all those who made the week-end so enjoyable and particularly to S.G.A.P. members for being with us and to Geoff Arnott for arranging the Sunday excursion.

H.B.

## SIX FAMILIES OF RUSH- AND SEDGE-LIKE PLANTS

1. CYPERACEAE Sedges, Club- and Bog-rushes, etc.  
Stems: Usually solid, often 3-cornered, not jointed.  
Leaves: Conspicuous, grass-like but with no ligules; basal sheath closed.  
Flowers: One bract subtends each; perianth absent, or 3 or 6 scales or bristles.
2. RESTIONACEAE Rope, Cord and Twine-rushes.  
Stems: Jointed, wiry.  
Leaves: Bract-like, partly sheathing the stem.  
Flowers: With 6 glume-like perianth segments.
3. CENTROLEPIDACEAE Aphelia, Centrolepis, Trithuria.  
Very small annual grassy herbs, under 10 cm, often under 5 cm.  
Stem: Threadlike.  
Leaves: Basal, threadlike.  
Flowers: In spikelets or small heads, subtended by bracts; perianth scale-like or absent.
4. JUNCACEAE Rushes and Woodrushes.  
Stems: Cylindrical, pithy.  
Leaves: Basal, narrow and scale-like.  
Flowers: With 6 glume-like segments.
5. XANTHORHIZACEAE Grasstrees and Mat-rushes.  
Lomandra - Mat-rushes.  
Stems: Cylindrical, solid.  
Leaves: Hard, narrow, basal, and usually much longer than flower stem.  
Flowers: Small, dioecious.
6. JUNCAGINACEAE Arrowgrass, Water-ribbons.  
Stems: Cylindrical, solid.  
Leaves: Narrow-linear, (wide and long in Water-ribbons). Longer or shorter than stem.  
Flowers: Greenish, bisexual, in terminal spike; carpels 6, usually 3 sterile.

E.G.E '86

Key to CYPERACEAE genera - - - (adapted from Burbridge)

1. Female flowers & nut enclosed in utricle (tiny membranous sac);  
all flowers unisexual.

1. Carex

- 1a. Nut not enclosed in utricle; flowers mostly bisexual, sometimes  
upper or lowermost male only.  
2. Spikelets more or less flattened, the glumes distichous; hypogynous  
bristles absent; spikelets usually in dense head.  
3. Rachilla more or less straight; spikelets several to many flowered,  
(if 1-flowered, then style bifid); hypogynous bristles absent.

2. Cyperus

- 3a. Rachilla strongly flexuose & bent over nuts; spikelets few-flowered,  
style trifid; hypogynous bristles present or absent.

3. Schoenus

- 2a. Spikelets more or less terete, glumes spirally arranged; hypogynous  
bristles present and spikelets nearly always solitary and terminal on  
culm.

4. Each spikelet maturing more than 3 nuts.

5. Style slender throughout length, not thickened at base.

4. Scirpus

- 5a. Style thickened at base.

5. Fleocharis

- 4a. Each spikelet maturing only one nut (rarely two).

6. Hypogynous bristles or scales absent.

7. Style not thickened at base; bracts of inflorescence tightly  
inrolled, narrow, stiff and scabrid, at least the lower much  
exceeding the group of spikelets in their axils; very coarse  
caespitose plants growing in large clumps.

6. Cahria

- 7a. Style base thickened; bracts of inflorescence more or less  
flat or slightly incurved, soft and glabrous, not or scarcely  
exceeding the group of spikelets in their axils; more or less  
slender plants with long-creeping rhizomes.

7. Bankea (Cladium; Machaerina)

- 6a. Hypogynous scales present, thick and slightly fleshy, attached  
to base of nut and falling with it; glumes persistent; coarse  
tufted plants more than 15 cm high with compound inflorescence.

8. Lepidosperma

E. C. C.  
80



SOME OF THE PLANTS SEEN AT HALL'S GAP. 12 and 13 APRIL 1986.

- Acacia oxycedrus* ( Spike Wattle )  
*A. mitchellii* ( Mitchell's Wattle )  
*A. diffusa* ( Spreading Wattle )  
*A. gunnii* ( Floughshare Wattle )  
*Astroloma conostephioides* ( Flame Heath )  
*A. pinnifolium* ( Pine Heath )  
*Banksia marginata* ( Silver Banksia )  
*B. ornata* ( Desert Banksia )  
*Burchardia umbellata* ( Milkmaids - Liliaceae )  
*Casuarina muellerana* ( Slaty Sheoak )  
*Coprosma hirtella* ( Rough Coprosma )  
*Correa reflexa* ( Common Correa )  
*C. aemula* ( Hairy Correa )  
*Dianella revoluta* ( Black Anther Flax Lilly )  
*Epacris impressa* ( Common Heath )  
*Eriochilus cucullatus* ( Parson's Bands - Orchidaceae )  
*Eucalyptus alpina* ( Grampians Gum )  
*E. goniacalyx* ( Bundy. Long Leaf Box )  
*E. viminalis* ( Manna Gum )  
*E. obliqua* ( Messmate Stringy Bark )  
*E. camaldulensis* ( River Red Gum )  
*Grevillea aquifolium* ( Variable Prickly Grevillea )  
*Helichrysum scorpioides* ( Button Everlasting )  
*H. obcordatum* ( Grey Everlasting )  
*Leptospermum nitidum* ( Shiny Teatree )  
*L. scoparium* ( Manuka. Broom Teatree )  
*L. juniperinum* ( Prickly Teatree. Black Teatree )  
*Leucopogon glacialis* ( Twisted Beard Heath )  
*L. ericoides* ( Pink Beard Heath )  
*Lobelia* ?  
*Lomandra filiformis* ( Wattle Mat Rush - formerly Liliaceae )  
*L. longifolia* ( Spiny-headed Mat Rush )  
*Persoonia* ?  
*Phebalium obovatum* ( Notched Phebalium )  
*Platylobium obovatum* ( Common Flat Pea )  
*Pultenea costata* ( Bush Pea )  
*Melaleuca squarrosa* ( Scented Paper Bark )  
*Styphelia adscendens* ( Golden Heath )  
*Stylidium soboliferum* ( Grampians Trigger Plant )  
*Styphandra glauca* ( Nodding Blue Lily )  
*Tetralix ciliata* ( Pink Bells )

FAMILY MYRTACEAE - continued.

Plants belonging to four genera are found in their "natural state" near Ballarat. Others, of course, may grow in gardens, parks etc.

The four genera are :- Callistemon ( " Bottle brushes " ), Eucalyptus ( " Gum Trees " ), Leptospermum ( " Tea-trees " ), and Calytrix ( " Fringe Myrtle " ).

Leaves 4 cm long or longer, alternate

Flowers in spikes ( bottle brushes ), stamens colourful more than twice as long as petals, fruit dry and often woody. Shrubs. Callistemon

Buds of flowers covered by a deciduous operculum (from fused sepals and petals or fused sepals only) Flowers mostly in axillary umbels. Chiefly trees. Eucalyptus

Leaves less than 4 cm long, alternate

Calyx lobes deciduous before fruit ripens.

Stamens numerous, often shorter than the obvious white or coloured petals. Filaments united ( at least at the base ). Shrubs. Leptospermum.

Stamens 20 - 30, sepals often ending in an awn-like point or bristle. Fruit very small ( less than 3 mm wide ) nut-like. Slender Heath-like shrubs. Calytrix

H.H.

NOTE :- Change of Secretary.

Please change the Secretary's name from Mrs P. Murphy to Mr Barry Dowling.

Due to family commitments, Mrs Murphy is not available, however she is still on the committee.

We are grateful to Mr Barry Dowling for taking over the roll of Secretary.

## AUSTRALIA BEFORE 1788 !

" Management Archeologist with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ann Ross, immediately dispelled popular misconceptions of the Australian continent being in a totally natural state when European settlers arrived in 1788. The aborigines had in fact been managing the landscape through systematic burning, irrigation systems, river control and selective planting for centuries. Early descriptions of the Sydney region as an open parkland was largely the result of work by its original inhabitants."

( Statement made at a National Conference of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects at Manly 29 Aug. 1985 )

### Outing to Mt. William.

As it is a fair distance to Mt. William, we will leave "Crocker's Corner" at 9am, and meet at the Post Office in Lancefield at 11am then proceed to Mt. William. Those who wish to come in the afternoon will go straight to Mt. William as per map.

Maps will be available for all cars.

### SUPPER ROSTER - JUNE MEETING.

J. SPICER      G. BARBER . . .

together with other helpers, as this is the Memorial Lecture Meeting!

Please remember to bring additional supper, and market table items.